

Remarks:

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,018,347 (“Feilen”). Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,839,263 (“Biernath”). Claims 5 and 8 stand objected to for lack of antecedent basis for certain elements. The disclosure stands objected to for awkward wording in the brief descriptions of drawings 5a and 5b.

1) *Objection to Specification:*

The disclosure stands objected to for awkward wording in the brief descriptions of drawings 5a and 5b. Pages 5 and 6 of the specification have been amended to cure the awkward wording. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

2) *Objection for Lack of Antecedent Basis:*

Claims 5 and 8 stand objected to for lack of antecedent basis of “the cutting plane” in claim 5 and “the blade assembly” in claim 8. Claim 5 has been amended to provide the antecedent basis for “the cutting plane.” Claim 8 has been amended canceling the objected to language. Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

3) *Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 11and 12 for Anticipation:*

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12 are independent claims, while Claims 3 and 5 are dependent from Claim 1. The Examiner rejected these Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Feilen. Feilen teaches of a removable cutting edge that “is slidably received” to a carrier. (Feilen, Column 4, line 50). The present invention teaches a detachable cutting edge that is mounted to a carrier through holes in both the carrier and the cutting edge through which a bolt or other attachment mechanism is

passed. Claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12 have been narrowed to include the additional elements of a hole in the carrier and a hole in the detachable cutting edge through which the attachment mechanism is passed. Claims 3 and 5 are dependent from Claim 1 and therefore now also include these additional elements. Claim 12 has been narrowed to indicate the slot safety mechanism is one in which a T insert on the cutting edge is passed through a slot in the carrier, rather than the sliding slot 20 of Feilen. Feilen does not include these elements and consequently these claims are now in a condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

4) *Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 for Anticipation:*

Claims 1, 6, 8, and 10 are independent claims while claims 2 and 4 are dependent from Claim 1. The Examiner rejected these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Biernath. Biernath teaches of a removable cutting edge which is attached to a carrier by pinning it with a clamp 60 and forming a “safty cage” (Biernath, Column 5, Lines 4-45) or where the “knife member” 40 is inserted into the “blade body” 23 via a slot 23 in the blade body (Biernath, Column 6, Lines 44-49). The Examiner identified the “knife holder” 50 element of Biernath to be the carrier. In the present invention, the carrier has a central hole for direct connection to the drive shaft of a push lawn mower engine or the spindle shaft of a riding mower. The claims have been amended to include these elements which are lacking from the “knife holder” 50 of Biernath. The present invention teaches of a removable cutting edge attached directly to the top or bottom surface of a carrier by use of holes in the carrier through which the attachment mechanism is passed. Claims 1, 6, 8, and 10 have been narrowed to include these additional elements. Claims 2 and 4 are dependent from claim 1 and therefore also includes these additional elements. Biernath does not include these elements and consequently these claims are now in a condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

5) *Conclusion:*

In view of the previous amendments and remarks, Claims 1-12 are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all outstanding objections/rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Please apply any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account #50-0954,
Reference #: 0T299-68681.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gregory H. Revere Dec 09 2004
Reg. No. 53,511 Date

Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP
200 Clinton Ave. West, Suite 900
Huntsville, AL 35801-4900

Telephone: (256) 517-5100
Facsimile: (256) 517-5200